

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7456
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3861

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT NI APER
SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF IBADAN CONSULATE: POSITION TRANSFERS

REF: (A) LAGOS 3227, (B) ACCRA 2072, (C) STATE 067661,
(D) 77 LAGOS 11257

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL A, WE ARE MOST ANXIOUS TO RECOVER THE OFFICER POSITION IN THE ECONOMIC SECTION WHICH WE LOST TWO YEARS AGO WHEN THE SECTION'S WORKLOAD WAS CONSIDERABLY LESS. OUR JUSTIFICATION WAS SPELLED OUT IN AMBASSADOR EASUM'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 28 ON THIS SUBJECT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND IS UNRELATED TO THE SOMEWHAT INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE ECONOMIC SECTION HERE WILL ASSUME WITH THE CLOSURE OF IBADAN. WE NOTE THAT THE INSPECTORS HAVE CONCLUDED (REFTEL B) THAT A DECISION IS NEEDED ON HOW TO HANDLE POPULATION, REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING AND WHETHER THE STAFFING FOR THIS PURPOSE SHOULD COME FROM AID OR STATE. THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEEDS INVOLVED CAN BEST BE MET BY A FSO-4, FSO-5 OR FSO-6 WHO IS COMPLETELY INTEGRATED WITHIN THE ECONOMIC SECTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE RECOMMENDED A TRANSFER OF ONE OF THE
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OFFICER POSITIONS IN IBADAN TO LAGOS WHEN IBADAN CLOSURES.

2. THE CLOSURE OF IBADAN WILL ADD APPRECIABLY TO THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULAR SECTION IN LAGOS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE ISSUANCE OF NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS, 1877 OF WHICH WERE ISSUED AT IBADAN IN 1977. THE EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERS THAT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL

WILL NOT BE NEEDED IN ITS CONSULAR SECTION PROVIDED THAT IT RECEIVES THE ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER SCHEDULED FOR ASSIGNMENT HERE AT THE END OF THE YEAR AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPROVES OUR REQUEST IN THIS YEAR'S CONSULAR PACKAGE TO REDESIGNATE THE PRESENT REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER AS A VISA SECTION SUPERVISOR WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRESENT, INCOMBENT, MISS RUTH BROOKS, IN THE FALL OF THIS YEAR.

3. THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAL POSITION IN THE POLITICAL SECTION OUTLINED IN REFTEL D IS STILL URGENT. THE CURRENT HALF-TIME PIT POSITION, WHICH PARTIALLY ALLEVIATES THE PROBLEM, IS ONLY A TEMPORARY ONE. THE ARRIVAL OF A FOURTH OFFICER COUPLED WITH INCREASED POLITICAL WORKLOAD AS WE MOVE TOWARD CIVILIAN RULE WILL MAKE THIS NEED EVEN MORE URGENT. EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT THE AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION IN IBADAN BE TRANSFERRED TO LAGOS UPON CLOSURE OF IBADAN EASUM

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